

Press Release

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High Water Forces One-Day Suspension of Whitewater on Gauley River

HUNTINGTON, WV... Today was scheduled to be the first day of the Gauley River Whitewater rafting season. However, recent rainfall has resulted in high water levels at Summersville Lake, forcing a one-day delay of the Gauley Whitewater season.

Rafting will resume on the Gauley River on Saturday, although rafters will experience a start delay of two hours.

The Gauley Whitewater season takes place every weekend, Friday through Monday, during September and early October. Gauley Whitewater is made possible when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases water from the Summersville Dam to lower the lake to the winter pool level. These releases add about 2,800 cubic feet of water per second to the flow of the river.

The water at Summersville Lake early Friday morning was five feet above the summer pool level. This was a result of high flows into the lake being greater than the dam capacity to release water. The excess water being held is now being released to return the lake to summer pool levels.

Recent rainfall has not affected Whitewater rafting on the New River - except, according to enthusiasts, to make the river ride stronger than ever.

For more information on whitewater rafting in West Virginia, contact the West Virginia Division of Tourism at 1-800-CALL WVA.